



Parent Liaison News

Newsletter #4. I would appreciate some feedback if this is helpful to you or what other kinds of information you would find useful. If you want to receive this electronically, please let me know. It is my

intent that you may find the following information of interest and perhaps useful for discussion during Parent Advisory Committee meetings.

Special Education Audience Wants Changes in IDEA

Though vast and important improvements in special education have been made since Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 25 years ago, nagging problems still exist and need to be addressed, according to the more than 100 policymakers, researchers, lawyers, and administrators who attended a conference here last week.

Preliminary drafts of 18 papers were presented during the November 13-14 conference, which was co-sponsored by the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and the Progressive Policy Institute, research organizations that are both based in Washington. Among the papers were profiles of school-based special education programs and studies of the ways in which special education services fit into different school improvement models.

"There's been very little looking at how this (law) is really working," said Chester E. Finn Jr., the president of the Fordham Foundation and a former assistant secretary of education under President Reagan.

Fordham plans to publish final versions of the papers next year, in time for members of Congress to consider the issues raised in them before beginning the process of reauthorizing the IDEA.

Education Week
November 22, 2000

WEB Sites of Interest

The I Am Your Child Foundation was started in 1997 by Rob Reiner and promotes issues involving young children's development. This site has interesting information and resources.
www.iamyourchild.org

Special Education News is a weekly newsletter that is free. On their web site, the front page is updated daily. They provide resources, research and news articles about education.
www.specialednews.com

OSEP (The US Office of Special Education Programs) is pleased to announce the release of the 22nd Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/OSEP2000AnIRpt
(Both lines above are the web site)

Have you visited the MDE-OSE/EIS web site lately? We keep it updated and have lots of information that you may find helpful. We have lots of links to other sites also.
www.mde.state.mi.us/off/sped/

Information

Are you all on the mailing list for the CEN Newsline? This is a free special education newsletter for parents and teachers. It contains several articles that might be of interest to families in your area. Contact: CEN Newsline, Eaton ISD, 1790 E. Packard Highway, Charlotte, MI 48813 Phone: (800) 593-9146, extension #4
They can be accessed on the web
tbullock@eaton.k12.mi.us

There is a new Michigan Special Education Directory available. Have you seen it? Is the information listed for your PAC Chairperson correct? It is published by the Center for Educational Networking (CEN), Eaton ISD, 1790 East Packard Highway, Charlotte, MI 48813 or phone: 800-593-9146 #4
Keep in mind this is not a free publication.

Are you receiving a new publication titled, "Investing In Our Students"? This is published nine times a year by the Awareness and Dissemination hub (Hub 2) of the Michigan State Improvement Plan (SIP). The purpose of this publication is to facilitate ongoing awareness of parent, professional, and other trainings, workshops, and resources related to the education of students with disabilities, as well as activities related to the implementation of Michigan's Plan to Improve the Performance of Students with Disabilities. The goal of this publication is to provide valuable resources for educators, parents, and other stakeholders to improve the performance of students with disabilities. They rely on their readers to provide feedback and support in order for them to best serve their needs and provide the most effective information to meet the goals of the SIP. The SIP

welcomes and encourages readers to share information that can be used to enhance investing in our students and improve educational opportunities for ALL students. To start receiving, contact: jrogers@eaton.k12.mi.us or phone (800) 593-9146, extension #16

Conference Dates and Information

The Michigan Collaborative Early Childhood Conference will be held January 24-26, 2001 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. Contact: MDE, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs
MI Collaborative Early Childhood Conference
Attn: Joyce Gooder
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909
Or call 517-373-8483
Registration deadline is January 2.

The MCEC (Michigan Council for Exceptional Children) Convention is February 28-March 2, 2001 at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. This is a great conference every year. The title this year is Focusing on the FACEtS of Education. One of their featured speakers will be Dr. Willard Daggett who is the President of the International Center for Leadership in Education. Contact: Dr. Gene Kyle
6421 Victoria Shore,
Laingsburg, MI 48848

Remember the Growth for Families Conference will be held October 19-20 at the Troy Marriott Hotel. This is a conference for families of children of special needs. It is a great conference for families – even if you have never attended a conference before. Come and meet other families. There are some great speakers that have

committed to this conference. For further information as it becomes available, phone 248-209-2007

Comments from the Parent Liaison

If you have a PAC Newsletter, do you let families know how to access their PAC, Local Directors, Parent Handbooks, Procedural Safeguard information, support/advocacy groups, the revised Michigan Administrative Rules, CEN, your ISD web site information, and the MDE web site information. Where do families access IDEA and other legal information if they need to? Let's be a part of keeping our families and teachers as informed as we can. Often, we feel that it has been said so many times that everyone knows where to access information. People often do not remember or care to know how to access information until they need it and then do not know or understand how.

If your PAC has a newsletter or if you have some back copies on hand, please send them to me and ask that I get added to your mailing list. I get contacted from time to time for examples of newsletters and would really like to have some. I know that several PACs do newsletters and really would like to have the opportunity to promote the hard work that you do in producing your newsletters. Thank you!

If you have handbooks that have been updated to IDEA and the Regulations would you please send me a copy. Just this month, I was asked for some examples of handbooks. I have a couple but would like to have yours to hand out also. Just one or two copies would be fine – I don't have that large of an office and can copy here if needed.

As always, I am happy to hear from you. Let me know how your PAC is doing. Any questions? I will try to find the answer!

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This information is provided as a resource to parents who are active in Parent Advisory Committees and other school-based activities. Reference to web-sites, publications and other sources of information does not infer endorsement by the Michigan Department of Education.